

Lord, Help Me See

Now more than ever, Cornerstone needs to be focused on the harvest. God has been preparing us for this moment. By providence and our faith, this congregation is presently reaching more people locally than at any previous time in its history. And with that, it is important to continue to rally to the call to fill this building up with changed hearts. There is so much to be excited about ... and so much good to anticipate. Matthew 9:35-38 is a great passage to focus on as we begin our series on seeing through the eyes of Jesus. We must develop the ability to:

I. 9:36a - See

- A. Matthew 9:36 - *When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a **shepherd**.*
- B. If you are a sheep, there is nothing worse than being without a shepherd.
 - 1. Now think of those in the world we know who have no spiritual landmarks to guide them.
- C. Matthew 9:36 - *they were distressed and **dejected**.*
 - 1. If we can learn to see like Jesus sees, we'll soon discover sheep who desperately need a shepherd. People - who, without Christ, have no hope of eternal life.

II. 9:36b - Care

- A. Matthew 9:36 - *When he saw the crowds, he felt **compassion** for them,*
 - 1. Compassion: Jesus was moved in his stomach with pity. A "gut reaction," that moves a person to action.
 - 2. We so identify with the situation that we are prepared to move in their benefit.
- B. When was the last time you felt real pity for your unbelieving neighbors, colleagues, or classmates?
- C. Jesus lived for others: Mark 10:45 - *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
- D. Compassion comes to us by grace ... it is given to us by the Spirit ... it's the outgrowth of *love, patience, kindness, **goodness**, and gentleness*, Galatians 5:22-23.

III. 9:37-38 - Pray

- A. Realize the Potential
 - 1. Matthew 9:37 - *Then he said to his disciples, "The **harvest** is abundant..."*
 - 2. When we see through the eyes of Jesus, ... we see the lost as being like wheat that is ready for harvest. Any person can be a Christian.
 - 3. How do we look at others? Do we see the lost as potential saints? Do we feel the urgency?
 - a) 9:37 - *the harvest is **abundant***. The gospel still works.
 - b) Luke 18:27 - what is impossible with man is **possible** with God.
- B. Ask in Prayer
 - 1. Matthew 9:38 - *Therefore, **pray** to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.*
 - 2. We have to pray about it. God wants His work of harvest to be preceded by prayer.

IV. As We Close...

- A. What are some things you can do to get involved with the mission at Cornerstone?
- B. See the need. Shine forth the light of the message of the gospel.
- C. Respond in compassion - moving with pity and **care** for their eternal welfare.
- D. See the potential of conversion.
- E. The potential harvest is reaped by prayer. *Here am I. **Send me!***, Isaiah 6:8.